Auburn Morning News

Official Paper of the County

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1878.

How the Indian Service is Mismanaged.

It looks very much as if Secretary Schurz had taken a big job on his hands, when he challenged the army officers to bring forward their proof of alleged fraud and mismanagement in the Indian agencies. The sharp answer sent to the Secretary by Gen. Sheridan the other day, indicates a strong confidence, on the part of the latter, of his ability to prove what has been alleged.

It is neither charged nor intimated that Secretary Schurz has been responsible for these frauds, nor even cognisant of them; on the contrary, he has seemed to have a sincere and earnest desire to reform the management of the Indian Bureau, as far as possible. But what the army men allege, and with a good deal of force, is that the system is at fault, and that until a radical change in the system is made, a thorough reform is impossible. And notwithstanding it may be thought that the army officers are interested witnesses, in view of the proposition to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department, it is nevertheless true that they are bringing forward a good deal of proof to sustain their assertions.

In addition to the report of Gen. Sheridan, General Sherman has been furnished with a large number of briefs and extracts from reports of army officers and others relating to frauds and mismanagement in the Indian service. As a fair sample of these may be taken the report of First Lieutenant Lee, of the 9th Infantry, who has been recently acting agent for the Spotted Tail Agency, in Dakota. Lieut. Lee's report, which is dated on the 28th of last November, gives an explanation of how affairs were conducted at Spotted Tail Agency previous to the time a military officer was detailed as agent. It says that E. A. Howard was then in charge as agent; that he had instilled into the minds of the Indians almost every possible prejudice against the military, but that when the change was made it was done so suddenly that the good effect was speedily apparent. Lieutenant Foot, who preceded Lee as acting agent, found, when he relieved Civil Agent Howard, the supplies reduced to a starvation minimum, and after getting supplies from the military to feed the starving Indians, his first official act was to take a census, and he then found that Howard had been issuing supplies, on paper, to 9,170 Indians, when the actual number was only 4,775. Of course the agent and contractors together pocketed the difference. Lee took charge of Spotted Tail Agency March 3, 1877. By treaty, annuities for the Indians should have reached them the 1st of August of each year, but they did not arrive until mid-winter, thus causing much suffering, and this has been generally the case.

Lieutenant Lee then gives a history of the McCann frauds, which had been reported as early as 1875, and says, notwithstanding these frauds, McCann received the contracts for a very large portion of the transportation for 1877. Lee then relates minutely the McCann and Davis frauds; shows the methods of inspections; states the deficiencies that occurred on account of them; says he reported the facts to the Indian Bureau, and that finally he received a telegram from the Acting Commissioner saying, "We trust McCann no longer."

Lee says that good, bad and indifferent beef cattle had been received at the agency by Howard, and that when the military took charge the average weight suddenly dropped from 1,050 pounds to 800 pounds per head, gross, showing a previous cheating on weight of over 25 per cent.

He then proceeds to show that in opposition to his recommendation, the beef contractor, to save taking care of the herds, had succeeded in obtaining a supplemental contract at Washington to deliver all the beef by the middle of December, 1877, on the Missouri River, and the agent was to slaughter and freeze it. Lee protested that he had no facilities for preserving the beef, that if the Winter happened to be an open one it would be a total loss, and finally was authorized to hold the herd during the Winter.

He then proceeds to review the system of management, and shows that while the head of the Bureau may do his best, the corruptions that have occurred will unquestionably occur again and can only be remedied by a more business-like system. Lieut. Lee says the greatest difficulty an agent has to contend with is the system of doing business. The agent is at the mercy of the contractors, and, owing to the irregularity of supplying the agency, is often compelled to receive supplies that are not up to the requirements of the contract.

Joseph Cook on "Wages and Children's Labor."

The above is the title of a new lecture delivered a short time since in Tremont Temple, Boston, by Rev. Joseph Cook, the noted "scientific-orthodox" New Englander, in which both the questions involved are treated with eloquence and force. Omitting the statistics in reference to the "wages" question, we give Mr. Cook's summing up, as follows:

"Advocating no socialistic proposition and defending no communistic dream, I yet believe the day will come when the cost of its production will determine the pay of labor. The cost of production includes the support of a family. We cannot give the State the strength of its citizens on any rule that starves men. We cannot produce a skilled class unless we bring our children up well. Unless we have a certain regard for skill, as well as for the mill, the mill itself will be without skilled operatives. In time there cannot be a fit laboring class provided unless you give such wages as will enable an average head of a family to put among his expenses school-books, newspapers, and religion. There must be somewhere a lifting of the income of the lowest paid class of laborers, otherwise we shall have monstrosity after monstrosity, and the heart of girlhood wrung till the gutters are full of the ruddy slime. My theme is not socialism so much as labor reform an antidote to socialism. My theme is, in short, justice, as an antidote to the dreams of political heretics."

On the point of "Children's Labor" the lecturer said:

"The Deputy State Constable of Massachusetts reported in 1875 that there were then in this commonwealth upward of 60,000 children, of school ages, who are growing up in ignorance, contrary to the ancient policy of the State and in open violation of the letter and spirit of existing laws.' (Report on the Schooling and Hours of Labor of Children,' by George E. McNeill, January 11th, 1875.) If you think these numbers too large for the facts, look forward, and you will soon double the figures, at the rate at which manufacturing centres are increasing in population. These children grow up in ignorance because of the low wages, which require fathers to send the children into the mills. They grow up without knowing, if they are girls, how to set a stitch, because their mothers must be behind looms, and because a home left in the care of very young or aged persons is no place in which to teach housekeeping in detail. They grow up slatternly, and so find it difficult to obtain situations. They grow up open at various points to moral temptations, which would not assault them if a higher spirit of self-respect had been fostered by giving the head of the family power to maintain his household."

Current Notes.

—A Lincoln, Neb., physician claims that the excessive use of the potato is provocative of diphtheria.

—There are two colored Republicans in the Alabama legislature, and one of them has been arrested for stealing from the other.

—There isn't so much talk about "the dark horse" as a year ago. Perhaps he has been clipped.—*Detroit Free Press.* If you mean Blaine, you must remember he has also lost his Maine.—*Boston Post.*

—A Chicago paper publishes weekly all marriage licences, with the ages of both the male and female applicants. This is not looked upon with favor by the parties principally interested.

—The most elaborate recent wedding in Nashville was that of a negro couple, J. C. Napier and Nettie Langston. The bride wore an imported dress of cream-colored silk and fine lace, and many of the guests were attired with equal cost.

—Joseph Beckert of Kilbourn City, Wis., married a young, pretty, and accomplished widow. The match was in all respects fitting, except that the husband was a Roman Catholic priest. He has not waited to be disciplined by his church, but has resigned from the priesthood.

There has been the greatest difficulty in inducing the Duchess of Edinburgh to go over and take up her abode in England even for a few weeks, though the Queen had intimated the propriety and reassuring effect of such a measure. She idolizes her father, and does not love the English Court. The latter fully reciprocates this sentiment.

—When Gen. Moreau of France was visiting this country he attended a college commencement at Ann Arbor, and during the exercises the choir gave a piece of music, the refrain to each verse of which was; "To-morrow! to-morrow! to-morrow!" The general not catching the drift of the idea of the poetry, if it had any, and only understanding what to him was "To Moreau!" created much amusement by rising at the end of each stanza and bowing gracefully to the singers with his hand on his heart.

—In 1828, New York, with a population of 169,000, had 30 newspapers. It was estimated at the time that the United States had 1 paper in every 13,800 of population; England, 1 in 48,500; France, 1 in 65,300; Prussia, 1 in 43,000; Austria, 1 in 400,000; Russia, 1 in 672,000; Sweden and Norway, 1 in 47,000; Portugal, 1 in 207,000; Spain, 1 in 808,000.

During the recent flood at Westfield, Mass., the house occupied by Frank Ash was carried a quarter of a mile by the current, yet not a dish was dropped from the shelves or broken, although a stove was smashed. The house was a large double tenement, and now stands out in the middle of a meadow where the water left it.

—Fifteen of the ladies connected with the present diplomatic corps at Washington are American girls, whose diplomacy and beauty captured distinguished husbands. Among the number are the wives of the French, Italian, Guatemalian, and Turkish ministers, and many others of lesser rank, including Mrs. Yung Wing, of the Chinese legation who was a Miss Bartlett, of Connecticut.

Lieut. Harry Tiffany.

SELLING HIS PAY ACCOUNTS TWICE AND THEN DESERTING FROM HIS REGIMENT.

From the N. Y. Sun.

BISMARCK, D. T., Dec. 25.—Lieut. Harry Tiffany, who recently deserted from the Eleventh Infantry, U. S. A., is a relative of Gen. Joe Johnston. He is the son of George Tiffany of Rose Hill, near Baltimore, who is a member of a prominent and wealthy family. Harry in the youth was familiar with every form of extravagance. His parents were divorced and his father was remarried in Europe. Before the war Harry was taken to Paris, where he lived an exceedingly fast life. He ran the blockade during the war and served for some time faithfully in a Confederate company of Maryland Guards, most of the time in Northern Virginia. But one day he went to Richmond and did not return again to his command. He was heard of afterward in Europe, and then his relatives saw a published notice of his death.

A little more than two years ago a friend recognized in the Sergeant Major of the Fourth Cavalry, on duty in Louisiana, the reported dead man. Tiffany acknowledged that he had announced his own death that he might lead a new life under another name, and had enlisted as a private soldier. His family possessed sufficient influence to have him appointed a Second Lieutenant. He was transferred to the Eleventh Infantry and joined his regiment at Fort Custer.

Last summer Miss Barrett, of Baltimore, a sister of the wife of one of the officers of the post, visited Fort Custer. She was an old friend of Tiffany's, and they became engaged. Miss Barrett's family were opposed to the match, and an uncle of her's accompanied her from Bismarck on her return to Baltimore, in September. Lieut. Tiffany overtook them at the Palmer House, in Chicago, and married Miss Barrett there, an incident of which the uncle was ignorant until the Lieutenant introduced his niece to him as Mrs. Tiffany.

On the same day Lieut. Tiffany received a telegraphic summons to appear before a court martial to Fort Keogh. He quitted his bride and started immediately. In St. Paul he sold his pay accounts for August and September. In Bismarck, two days afterward, he sold the same accounts again and lost the money in gambling. In a few days his Bismarck banker ascertained that he had been swindled, and so informed Lieut. Tiffany, who gave, to settle the matter, a draft on his banker brother in Maryland. The draft was returned with the word "worthless" written across its face. A few weeks were exhausted in correspondence, and then, it becoming clear that his evil doings would be exposed, Lieut. Tiffany deserted. He made his way over an unknown country to the Union Pacific, and was heard of last in Chicago. The department Commander has sent out orders requesting his arrest.

"Facts are stubborn things," and so are coughs and colds, but the latter will invariably yield to Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, which costs but 25 cents. jan7n1t.

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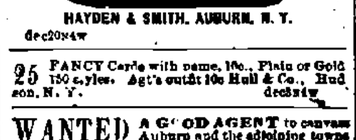

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